Ps 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

6 Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.

8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

9 Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;

10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

12 They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

13 Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.

14 Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

16 With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

All God’s Promises are unfailing, He is absolutely trustworthy

All God’s Promises are based on love and trust

God’s faithful Promises are Armor and Protection

“The Soldier’s Psalm.” World War I, the 91st Infantry Brigade of the U. S. Army was preparing to enter combat in Europe. commander (devout Christian) he assembled his men and gave each of them a little card printed the 91st Psalm, the same number Psalm as their brigade. They agreed to recite Psalm daily. After they had begun praying the Psalm, the 91st Brigade was engaged in three of the bloodiest battles of World War I — Chateau Thierry, Belle Wood and the Argonne. Other American units that fought in the same battles had up to 90 percent casualties, but the 91st Brigade did not suffer a single combat-related casualty.

**Dwell in God's Character**

Ps 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. 9 Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;

14 Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

**Dwell in God's Character**

God's character is displayed in His names.

The secret place of the **Most High**

The shadow of the **Almighty**

LORD The self-Existent or Eternal; Jehovah

my refuge and my fortress

God The Supreme God

the LORD, which is my refuge

Ps 91:9 ¶ Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;

Ps 9:10 And **they that know thy name** will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

Ps 91:14 Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, **because he hath known my name**.

1. Knowing God’s Name
   1. WE can know The Lord by faith in His Word

2 **I will say of the LORD**, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; **in him will I trust**.

* + 1. **“in him will I trust”**
       1. He is my refuge
       2. my fortress
       3. my God

Ps 91:4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

* + 1. “shalt thou trust”

Ps 9:10 And **they that know thy name** will **put their trust in thee**: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

* + 1. “put their trust in thee”
       1. Know His Will
          1. Ps 91:1 shall abide
          2. Ps 91:3 Surely he shall deliver thee
          3. Ps 91:4 He shall cover thee
          4. Ps 91:10 There shall no evil befall thee
          5. Ps 91:11 For he shall give His Angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.
       2. Love Him
          1. Ps 91:14 Because he hath set his love upon me,

therefore will I deliver him:

I will set him on high

Ps 91:15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him:

I will be with him in trouble;

I will deliver him, and honour him.

* 1. We know some by sight and then some by name
  2. To begin our relationship with the Lord we must know His name and call upon His name.

Ps 91:15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

Ge 4:26 And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the LORD.

* + 1. All God’s names bear His characteristics that we may know Him
       1. We can know His name and His Will by knowing His Word.

Ps 91:4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: **his truth** shall be thy shield and buckler.

* + - 1. We can know His name His Salvation

Ps 91:16 With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

1Cor. 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

11-15

v.14—There are rewards for the obedient

v.15—You could suffer loss

1Co 3:16 ¶ Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

v.17—You could defile yourself

v.18—You can deceive yourself

1Co 3:20 And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.

Ps 94:11 The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are vanity.

The Beauty of Christian Character is Christ adds to your faith in every trial.

The Beauty of Christian Character is shown in II Cor. 6:1-18

**Dwell in God's Character**

Ps 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: **his truth** shall be thy shield and buckler.

**Heb 8:6** ¶ But now hath he obtained **a more excellent ministry**, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

Don’t just dwell on your thoughts of who you are or what you think of Him but let Him take you further. Live in Christ, partake of His Divine Nature

2Peter 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

1. Divine Nature
   1. Diligently exercise your faith in Christ
      1. Diligently obey the Word of God
      2. Depend on the Lord
   2. Deference
      1. Respect is when you put the other person’s interest first.
      2. Submission to Right Judgment
      3. Obedience to the Word of God

1Co 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

Ga 4:14 And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.

1Th 2:13 ¶ For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

Titus 1:3 But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;

1. Worship God:
   1. Wonder—Be in AWE, dwell in AWE of God

Ps 91:1 ¶ He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Ps 17:8 Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings,

Ps 27:5 For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

Ps 31:20 Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

Ps 32:7 ¶ Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

Ex 15:1; Jg 5:1; 2Sa 22:1; Song of Solomon

* 1. Walk with God
     1. Walk in His likeness—Purity, Holiness and Perfection of Love

2Pe 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

* + 1. Walk in His Power

2Pe 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

1Pe 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

1-8 Security

9-13 Victory

14-16 Honor

Ps 91 helps when you are faced with the dangers of life

It helps us to know how things should be as Christians.

We will have troubles but troubles will not have us. When we go through trouble, God is with us if we abide in Him.

Dwell in God- abide in God, dwell in the secret place, abide under His shadow, trust in God, live in God, make God your habitation and nothing will harm you - He is the very safest place.

Days of horror and nights of terror are for other men, days and nights are alike when spent with God

Confronting evil and peril cannot be avoided but you can escape the consequences, By Walking with God you can detect peril and be safe from a lot of trouble.

1Pt. 2 :18-25

Remember these are Covenant Promises and every promise is with conditions

We can live a life of Faith, confidence and victory

91:1—The spiritual life dwelling and abiding

The secret life worship, communion and walking with God

91:2—The hidden life “my refuge and my fortress”

91:4—The protected life “shield and buckler”

91:5-15 Peace from God Peace with God

91:14— Love from and for God

91:16—The satisfied life

* A fulfilled life
* God adds life to your years

3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

Attacked secretly or openly

Secretly—the snare of the fowler

Openly –the noisome pestilence.

Pestilence of error.

Pestilence of sin.

Pestilence of disease

Ps 91:6 Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

Aids, heart diseases, lung diseases, Cancer-growth lump cyst or tumour, Malaria

Heatstroke

Fear, anxiety, concerns

Fear hath torment

Fear can destroy more than the plague

Faith destroys fear

The true remedy against tormenting fear is faith in God

Ps 91:5 Thou **shalt not be afraid** for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

Job 5:19 He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee.

Ps 112:7 He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD.

Pr 3:23 Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble.

24 When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.

25 Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.

26 For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

Isa 43:2 When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

De 1:29 Then I said unto you, Dread not, neither be afraid of them.

30 The LORD your God which goeth before you, he shall fight for you, according to all that he did for you in Egypt before your eyes;

De 3:22 Ye shall not fear them: for the LORD your God he shall fight for you.

De 31:6 Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Ps 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

9 Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;

Ps 90:1 <<A Prayer of Moses the man of God.>> Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.

De 33:27 The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.

“the world is in deep trouble,”

The world is undergoing “a moment of uncommon turbulence” right now in 2011.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated Sept. 15 (just last Thursday) that “the global economic crisis continues to shake banks, businesses, government and families around the world.” Moreover, natural disasters in the U.S. and across the globe “have made 2011 the costliest on record.”

“We face an extraordinary array of geopolitical and humanitarian challenges – famine in Somalia, the aftershocks of the Arab Spring, ongoing conflicts in some countries and difficult transitions in others. All this in addition to the deeper political, economic and environmental transformations that are re-shaping our world,”

Many Americans think because they have a job, food, shelter and digital lifestyle they're safe but the riots in London tells us different; Americans? (People) in America will rise up if they're pressed into more hopeless situations of unemployment and poverty,"

Natural disasters across the globe have made 2011 the costliest on record in terms of property damage, and that was just six months; now its nine months

The first six months saw $265 billion in economic losses, previous record of $220 billion, Japan’s earthquake and the Tsunami that hit both Japan and the West Coast of the U.S. last March $210 billion

New Zealand's earthquake in February ($20 billion)

Twister outbreak in the U.S. Southeast ($7.5 billion) claimed nearly 600 lives this year

Australia's flooding in December-January ($7.3 billion)

Last week, it was projected the world population will “top 7 billion” in October.

“the seven billionth citizen will be born into a world of contradictions.

We have plenty of food yet millions are still starving. We see luxurious lifestyles yet millions are impoverished. We have great opportunities for progress but also great obstacles.”

How is the massive amount of energy getting into the oceans? The world is in trouble in the deep.

2Ti 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, {false...: or, one who foments strife}

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

1. Taught that there is no God
   1. Taught to be reprobate
   2. Taught to be rebellious
2. Taught about God without Christ
   1. False religions
   2. False doctrines
3. Taught about the truth without power
   1. Teach personal interpretations
   2. Teach precepts of men

Our society is turning out reprobates

People that don’t want to believe that there is a God and they don’t want to be saved.

Churches are programming people to be reprobates; they can’t be reached with the truth.

7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

II Tim. 3:3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, **false accusers**, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, {false...: or, one who foments strife}

Pr 6:19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that **soweth discord among brethren**.

2Co 11:26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among **false brethren**;

Ga 2:4 And that because of **false brethren** unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:

Reprobate is the results of a process,

Reprobate doesn’t just happen

People don’t just harden their hearts against God

Unbelief hardens the heart

Heb 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be **hardened through** the deceitfulness of sin.

1Tim. 3:2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; {of good...: or, modest}

Titus 2:2 That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. {sober: or, vigilant }

1Peter 5:8 ¶ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

1. Teach the truth with power
2. Read your bible and get saved
3. Know the truth and be made free
4. Vigilantly obey the Lord
5. Fervently Pray consistently
6. Diligently serve God
7. Go out and teach people the truth with power

2Ti 3:8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. {reprobate: or, of no judgment}

Ro 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; {a reprobate...: void of judgment or, an unapproving mind}

Reprobate- unapproved, untested, not acceptable, never satisfied

Ungodly and unchristian

Existing without life

Full of emptiness

Ps 91:16 With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

“Satisfy”

fill to satisfaction (literally or figuratively):--have enough, fill (full, self, with), be (to the) full (of), have plenty of, be satiate,

2Co 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

1Ti 6:5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

Tit 1:16 They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate. {reprobate: or, void of judgment}

Jude 1:4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Heb 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Heb 12:17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

**Tears over Portland**

Psalm 91:8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

Luke 19:41 And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,

Strong men weep for cities..c

Have you ever seen a strong man weep over a city?

Powerful lessons can be learned from the tears of great leaders.

1. King David

2Sa 18:33 And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!

2Sa 19:4 But the king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!

Remember King David's tears over the death of Absalom: "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son.

Who can feel an relate for the lament an appeal of a father for his child? Job 6:27 Yea, ye overwhelm the fatherless, and ye dig a pit for your friend.

1. Alexander

Alexander, miscalled "the Great' is said to have wept because he could find no more empires to conquer. Atleast twice after victory he sold 30,000 of his captives as slaves. The world was at his feet. Yet his tears show that despite money, power, position, life without God is empty and wasted.

Ac 16:9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.

10 And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

Praying, preaching and pulling down strongholds of the kingdom of Satan, to destroy superstition and idolatry, to enlighten the eyes of men, and turn them from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to God, and save them from utter ruin and destruction.

Col 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

This shows what a miserable condition this country was in; and that God had some chosen people among them to gather in the saved,

1. The disciple Peter

When Peter, that rough-and-ready disciple who had cursed himself and denied Jesus, saw his Savior, bound and beaten, he wept in bitter repentance. If you have rejected Christ, behold Him now, betrayed by your cowardice, suffering in yourstead, and then sob in sorrow over your sins!

Saint Paul, the fearless Apostle, who could ride Mediterranean hurricanes without a quiver of terror, tells the believers in Ephesus that for "the space of three years I ceased not to warn everyone night and day with tears." What a challenge to American Christians, urging them to show their zeal for the Savior, not by bakery sales, fish fries, card or dancing parties, but by such heart-deep, self-sacrificing devotion to others that tears testify to their sacred earnestness!

When Napoleon saw the remnant of the proud army which had marched through the snow and ice of a Russian winter (the whole campaign cost him a half million lives; 90,000 died on the terrifying retreat) he broke down and sobbed. Here was the confident war lord who boasted that he did not need God to conquer Europe! Find in Napoleon's lament a proof that the Almighty can stop this conflict overnight! May it be soon, heavenly Father!

Yes, vital present-day lessons are to be learned from the tears of history's leaders; but the strongest warning and appeal come from the tears of the mightiest Figure in all history Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior of the world. Three times the Scriptures record that Jesus wept: first, at the tomb of Lazarus, where He proved Himself a compassionate Lord, moved by the suffering of friends; and last, in the Garden of Gethsemane, where at the beginning of His never-to-be-measured agony in atoning for the world's sins (so the Epistle to the Hebrews testifies ) He "offered up prayers and supplications    
with strong crying and tears! 9 Only five days before that groaning in Gethsemane, Jesus, about to enter Jerusalem, hadalso wept; for Saint Luke records in our text (chapter nineteen, verse forty-one), "When He was come near, He beheld the city and wept over it." This is the Savior's grief to which I call your attention as I show you His May God's Holy Spirit bless these words and throughout the land bring sinners to their weeping Redeemer!

THEY ARE TEARS OF SORROW FOR OUR SINS

The Jerusalem of our Savior's day was far more glorious than it is today. Even pagan writers paid their tribute to its brilliance. A Latin author calls it "one of the world's wonders." People were so blinded by its radiance as it reflected the Palestinian sun that they had to turn their eyes away; so Josephus, the Jewish historian, tells us. Yet when our Lord, at the head of a large throng preparing to enter Jerusalem, stopped on Mount Olivet's heights to look toward the majestic city, there was no awe or admiration in His gaze. Instead, He stood silent. His lips quivered; His eyes filled; tears coursed down His cheeks.

Why was Jesus, about to hold His victorious entry into Jerusalem, in the moment of His greatest earthly triumph, so moved by the sight of His country's capital? To find the answer, let us stand in spirit with Him on the crest of Olivet to see what He beheld in the panorama before Him. Perhaps He was at a point where His first glance would single out the Temple, a magnificent structure, on which architects and laborers had toiled for fifty years and were still not finished a colossal sanctuary of white and red marble, gilded roofs, dazzling courts, stately pillars, nine gates covered with gold and silver altogether an imposing monument to God. Yet that grandeur left Jesus untouched, for He was inexpressibly saddened by the hollow mockery, shocking insincerity, cold formality, to be found in that house of the Highest. With His mind's eye He could see the money changers, the sellers of the sacrificial animals, and others who piled up profits in the name of religion. He remembered the multitudes who bought doves or lambs, the wealthy who purchased steers or bullocks and thought that by such offerings they could be cleansed from their sins even though their hearts were far from God and they refused to repent. He could almost hear the loud chanting of the Pharisees, who threw their shoulders back, raised their heads high in their self-esteem, and intoned, "God, I thank Thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican!"  Because the Savior saw masses ruined, in spite of this outward worship, cursed because of their    
hypocrisy, His eyes were wet with tears.

If Jesus were with us today, He would undoubtedly weep over America's spiritual life. We have congregations that count their real estate and resources in millions, some of them in tens of millions! Yet that alone means nothing to Christ. The United States likewise is crowded with churches which forget the divine com-mand, "Thou shall love the Lord, thy God, with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy strength and with all thy mind" and which, instead of this inner, heart-centered, soul-deep worship of God, permit head and lip worship to creep in, formalism and ceremonies to receive far too much attention. The plain preaching of the Gospel, without which no man can be redeemed, is pushed into the background. Ask the average American: "How do you expect to be saved? What is your hope of heaven?" and you will find first that many of our countrymen do not want to be saved, since they think they do not need to be; and you will also learn that of those who believe in the hereafter, the majority actually like to think themselves so good, so much better than others, that God will welcome them with open arms when they ought to understand that without the Lord Jesus they are lost forever; that their hearts are filled with greed, lust, hatred, their lives marked with secret and disguised sin. Because millions in this nation, founded by Christian pioneers, blessed above all other people on earth through religious freedom, have forgotten their God, neglected their privileges, spurned their blessings, rejected their Savior, we can find Him on Olivet, grief-gripped not only for Jerusalem's Temple, but for churches in the United States that are more concerned about money raising than soul-winning, more intent on gaining popular applause than divine approval. As we hear Christ repeat His warning, "This people draweth nigh unto Me with their mouth and honoreth Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me" may God give us the spiritual insight required to understand that, if America is to come closer to the Almighty, this rededication must start in the churches; that the groups called Christian must receive a transfusion of firm,unquestioning, self-denying trust. To stop the tears of Christ, we must go back to the Bible, back to the blessed Savior, back to the blood of His atonement, back to justification by faith, and faith alone.

From Olivet the Savior could likewise see the palace of Caiaphas, the high priest He wore the sacred robes and the breastplate inscribed, "Holiness to the Lord."  He occupied the highest position in Old Testament worship. He alone could enter the Holy of Holies on the solemn Day of Atonement. Yet that high priest, who should have been closest to God, was an unbeliever, a murderer at heart, a sworn enemy of Jesus, and long ago he had begun to plot the crucifixion. He was surrounded by many Sadducees, who openly attacked Scripture, denied the hope of the resurrection, claimed that life was ruled by chance, that death ended everything. These men, politicians, perjurers, bold unbelievers in priestly apparel, were responsible for their country's downfall. It was true, then, as now, that

When nations are to perish in their sins,    
'Tis in the Church the leprosy begins.

Would not the same Savior who broke into sobs over the treachery of these priestly traitors raise His voice in lament if He were with us today to behold the unbelief in the ranks of the American clergy? The war has not yet brought a real revival of true Christian faith in America. Modernists, deniers of the free and final atonement by the Lord Jesus, are still in control of many congregations and of some denominations, Twentieth-century Sadducees sit securely in high places, Pulpit politicians, who heedlessly step over the line separating Church and State, are on the increase. For political reasons, ministers of the Gospel, in direct contradiction to Christ's Spirit, have decried the sending of food to Europe's starving  children. The number of those who teach and preach that Jesus, God's Son and Mary's, our Lord and Savior, our Ransom and Redeemer, our Atonement and Reconciliation to the Father, is the only but heaven-blessed Hope for every sinner, does not increase with rapid strides. Yet, because an unbelieving, Christ-debasing, Bible-ridiculing clergy can bring disaster on the nation, the appeal in this crisis to every servant of God must be: "Preach the Word!" "Call . . . sinners to repentance! Proclaim the Gospel with all its comforting and sustaining love! Believing American homes must help in safeguarding the Savior's truth. A national magazine presents a survey, taken among "a faithfully balanced cross section of high school students," which reveals that almost half of the young people do not attend church regularly. Is there any connection between this startling fact and the FBI report which showed an increase last year of more than 55 per cent in the arrests of girls under twenty-one? Ask yourself pointedly, 'Would Jesus weep over conditions in my home?" If you know that He would, implore Him to enter your household now and bring your entire family to His unfailing grace!

Prominent on Jerusalem's skyline were the palaces of the governing officials, imposing structures with high towers: the castle of King Herod, the residence of Pontius Pilate, the other government buildings; and Jesus could detect the corruption, deceit, iniquity, practiced with- in their pretentious walls. He wept as He contrasted with the hideous doom soon to break over the city the happy, blessed days its people might have enjoyed, had God-fearing, honest men conducted public affairs. While we ought to thank the Almighty daily for the marvelous benediction He has given us in a free, repre-    
sentative government, no one should be blind to the fact that graft, bribery, corruption, have sometimes flourished in the high government places; that public officials, judges, federal officers, have at times been convicted of dishonesty. The fault for much of this is on your shoulders, Christians of America, You have not prayed hard enough for your country. You have not worked zealously enough. You have refused to vote and spurned every opportunity to run for office.

Again, as the Savior's eyes scanned Jerusalem, they would have alighted on its cultural quarters, the residences of its intellectuals, the scribes, the teachers of the people, those too proud to accept the lowly Christ, perverted minds which used their God-given talents to blaspheme the Lord. His tears were shed for them, and today they would fall, too, for the American intelligentsia that can only sneer at Jesus. Most of you churchgoers have absolutely no idea of the shocking depths to which their scurrilous insults can descend. Listen to these lines, spawned by hell itself, entitled, "Good-by, Christ!":

Listen, Christ,    
You did all right in your day, I reckon    
But that day's gone now.    
They ghosted you up a swell story, too.    
Called it the Bible -    
But it's dead now.    
Good-by,    
Christ Jesus Lord God Jehovah;    
Beat it on away from here now.    
Make way for a new guy with no religion at all    
A real guy named    
Marx Communist Lenin Peasant Stalin Worker Me

**Saturday, May 15, 2010**

**Goodbye Christ by Langston Hughes**

Published in Negro Worker (Nov.-Dec. 1932)  
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Listen, Christ,  
You did alright in your day, I reckon—  
But that day’s gone now.  
They ghosted you up a swell story, too,  
Called it Bible—  
But it’s dead now,  
The popes and the preachers’ve  
Made too much money from it.  
They’ve sold you to too many Kings, generals, robbers, and killers—  
Even to the Tzar and the Cossacks,  
Even to Rockefeller’s Church,  
Even to THE SATURDAY EVENING POST.  
You ain’t no good no more.  
They’ve pawned you  
Till you’ve done wore out.  
Goodbye,  
Christ Jesus Lord God Jehova,  
Beat it on away from here now.  
Make way for a new guy with no religion at all—  
A real guy named  
Marx Communist Lenin Peasant Stalin Worker ME—  
I said, ME!  
Go ahead on now,  
You’re getting in the way of things, Lord.  
And please take Saint Ghandi with you when you go,  
And Saint Pope Pius,  
And Saint Aimee McPherson,  
And big black Saint Becton  
Of the Consecrated Dime.  
And step on the gas, Christ!  
Move!  
Don’t be so slow about movin?  
The world is mine from now on—  
And nobody’s gonna sell ME  
To a king, or a general,  
Or a millionaire.

I thought long and prayerfully before deciding to read these lines publicly; but most of you must be stirred into action. Remember, these are the words not of an amateur writer but of a man who won the Harmon Gold Award for Literature, the Guggenheim Award for Creative Literary Work, and the Rosenwald Fellowship!

Jesus wept over Jerusalem because He knew the appalling price it would pay for rebelling against God. He predicts, "Thine enemies . . . shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children with thee, and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation," The disaster Jesus foresaw came within less than fifty years, when in the siege and capture of the city, which makes some of the massacres in this World War seem small, 1,1.00,000 men perished and 97,000 people (the children and grandchildren of those to whom the Savior spoke) were led away captive, and so many of the citizens sold into servitude that no one would buy any more slaves. It was a shocking devastation; yet incomparably worse was the eternal destruction of souls which could have been saved through faith in Christ.

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked," is the warning America should read in Jerusalem's ruins. If up to this time you have insolently risen up against your Redeemer, turned your back on His arms nailed to the cross but stretched wide in invitation to welcome you, then, with all the life-and-death earnestness of this warning, I tell you that on Olivet Jesus was weeping for you, shedding divine tears because, if you continue to reject His ransom for your sin, you must pay in eternity for every unforgiven wrong, every unremoved transgression! Look at the Christ of sorrows once more! He weeps for you, knowing the peace, pardon, hope, and happiness you have lost without Him; the heavenly home, the seeing Him face to face in the blessed eternity you have spurned, the pain and horror of hell which you, sin-blinded, have chosen. Is your heart stone, that you are not moved by your sorrowing Savior, the Lord of heaven and earth, the God of all might, mourning over your preciously bought but carelessly lost soul? It was too late for masses in Jerusalem to repent and return to God. But, thanks to the Savior's marvelous mercy, it is not too late for you to throw off your stubborn resistance to Jesus and    
fall on your knees in contrite sorrow over your sins. You unbelieving husbands, unfaithful wives, ungrateful children, you blasphemers and scoffers; you, the self-satisfied and self-righteous; you who are sending your souls to hell by living in sin, helping destroy the morals and the faith of others there is still time for you to kneel before the compassionate Christ and say: 'What a fool I have been to reject my soul's salvation! Now I have found You at last, my all-forgiving Redeemer. You do not need to weep any more for me! O Jesus, dry your tears! Wash me! Cleanse me! Purify me through faith!" When you come to the Lord of limitless love with that faith, His face, once stained with tears, will be wreathed in heavenly happiness. The lips which once pronounced the woe over Jerusalem will tell you, "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out'

There is time for every one of you, but not so much time that you dare continue to postpone and delay accepting grace. "Now is the day of salvation.' You may not be with us next Sunday to hear another appeal for return to your heavenly Father. A week ago, while speaking to the men in tie United States Naval Air Station at Lambert Field, Saint Louis, I warned the cadets against the "speed and suddenness with which adversity may overtake us in these darkened days of war," and    
I asked them, in these very words, "Who knows what message of sorrow may come into our homes before this day draws to its close?" A few hours later two of those young fliers met sudden death in the first air collision at the training station. So quickly and unexpectedly, by God's inscrutable will, was the truth of that warning proved! Some of you may never have another opportunity to hear that Christ loved you despite your sins, died on the cross as your Substitute. Now, while heaven is still open for you, while Jesus pleads with you, while the Spirit urges you, wherever you are, accept Him!    
Say, "He is mine, and I am His for time and eternity!" The nation needs men and women with that trust. The first line of America's defense is faith in the Savior. The strongest weapon against enemies from within and without is the power of God through Christ To have the promise of that strength, millions in America must repent. They must return to God. They must acclaim their crucified Lord of love!

THEY ARE TEARS OF DIVINE LOVE AND SYMPATHY

Besides the stern warning we must find in Christ's tears heavenly comfort, the consolation we need particularly during times of war and upheaval. The Savior sees our afflictions and is deeply moved by our sorrows. The Redeemer is not like the sleeping Buddha in one of China's famous temples, a monstrous figure lying on his side with closed eyes, slumbering on, indifferent to his people's woes. Jesus is not like the Modernists' god, a vague, indefinite force, so far removed that He is not concerned with this world. Our precious Lord is not so majestic and omnipotent that He does not stoop or stop to help us. By the miracle of His mercy, none can be too lowly, unnoticed, poor, for His gracious interest. On the journey to Jerusalem, when He was so weighted by His suffering that even the disciples dared not disturb Him, He stopped to heal a blind beggar, enter the home of a despised publican, instruct His disciples, weep over Jerusalem.

The newspapers tell us that King George, ruler of the British Empire, daily goes to work for a few hours in a defense factory. What a remarkable example of service, when a monarch allies himself with his workers! But can you imagine any ruler going to Germany and offering his life for his enemies? The Savior did much more when He, in the words of Saint Paul, "took upon Him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Because He lived as a true man, save for sin, among men stained with sin, no one else in the world knows human needs as personally as Christ. No affliction with which you may be tormented was foreign to Him. Every hard, bitter road along which you drag yourself He has trodden. Whatever your path of grief, you are always following in the footsteps of the agonized Redeemer, and in comparison with the suffering He endured, yours, even in its worst and crushing torture, is only trivial. Are you poor? Jesus felt the pangs of poverty. He had not "where to lay His head." Are you overworked and worn out? Jesus can feel for you, because He was often at the point of exhaustion, overweary in fulfilling His ministry of love. Do you parents whose only sons have been called to the colors complain that you are lonely and forsaken? Are some of you men and women in the service depressed by grim loneliness?

Think of your Lord suffering in the Garden, alone in His heartbreaking agony! Picture Him on the cross, forsaken by God and man, and realize that He knows more deeply than you the pangs of lingering loneliness! Are you maliciously attacked and slandered? Recall the false witnesses, the perjurers, the paid spies, who sought to destroy Christ, and believe that His heart beats in sympathy for you! Are you ministers loyal to the Redeemer, suffering the disfavor of the higher-ups in your church organization? You need not explain this persecution to Christ He knows from His own bleeding experience what it means to be cursed and condemned by the highest religious authorities. Are you sick, an invalid of many years, gripped by increasing pain? You can have Tinfailing consolation in Jesus, who knows anguish inestimably greater than the worst you can stand; for in His own body He bore "our griefs and carried our sorrows." Are you at death's door? Has the doctor said that your days are not only numbered, but that soon perhaps within a week, even before nightfall they will be over? Then during these last .moments of your earthly suffering I tell you in the name of our blessed Redeemer who died at Calvary and whose body was laid into the grave that He knows more definitely what death means than anyone can ever explain, The tears which Christ wept at Jerusalem are a proof of His sympathizing love in every grief you must endure, any pressing burden you must carry. When life seems too hard, when you feel too depressed to face another day, think of the tears flowing down your Savior's cheeks; believe with all your heart that He was suffering in tender devotion to you and then sing:

What a Friend we have in Jesus,    
All our sins and griefs to bear:   
What a privilege to carry    
Everything to God in prayer!

These tears, however, are also evidence of the Redeemer's divine yearning to help and deliver you. You have not only a weeping Christ, but a bleeding Christ, a dying Christ, a crucified Christ. Human tears often mean little; some people can cry for the slightest cause; but Jesus proved His sacred earnestness when in the highest and holiest example of self-sacrifice He, the mighty and majestic God, bowed His head into death's death at Calvary. My fellow sinners and fellow redeemed, behold Him suspended between earth and heaven; and as you see those tears of love give way to the suffering of love, ask God's Spirit for the repentant faith by which you proclaim: This Christ of nail-crushed hands and feet, the Christ of wounded brow and riven side, the Christ of bleeding back and buffeted face, the Christ of anguish and thirst, the Christ of derision and Godforsakenness is my loving, compassionate, all-merciful Savior!

When we thus discover the sympathy in His tears, we have Heaven's own assurance that we need not weep endlessly and disconsolately over the sins and sorrows crowded into our lives. Then we have the inner conviction that because Jesus loves us with this tear-filled devotion, He will not only forgive us, but He will help us meet adversity, triumph over temptation, find strength in weakness, and turn the gloom of affliction into inner glory, the storms and turbulence of life into the calm and quiet of assured faith. The years before us may test us severely. Despite the cruel promises that America is on the threshold of a postwar period filled with prosperity and advantage such as our people have never known, we must not lose sight of the decisive fact that war has always burdened the succeeding generations and that, the wider the conflict, the heavier the sufferings in the aftermath. This is the most destructive struggle in all history. The price we must pay for it will be higher than for any previous conflict. We may witness terrifying upheavals in our own country. Our own liberties may be drastically restricted. Men with un-American and un- christian principles may seize control of this land, but whatever comes and believers of all denominations, children and parents in every believing household, should daily be on their knees, asking God to avert these tragedies! we will find comfort, sympathy, guidance, when we think of the Savior's tears and His blood drops at Golgotha. With this vision constantly before our eyes, we shall be prepared for hardship or, what may prove far more difficult, the ease and warmth of luxury and artificial prosperity.

You can see, then, that Jesus, weeping in warning and wondrous love, is the Savior for whom our sin-racked age cries with special pleading. The Christ who could mourn for His enemies should be the Example and the Power for America today. It took Madame Chiang Kai-shek, whose husband is generalissimo of a heathen nation, to remind us that in the Savior's spirit we must be ready to forgive our foes. I ask all real, confessing Christians throughout the land to pray regularly and repeatedly not only for victory and a quick end to this war, if it be God's will, but with the same determination to intercede for the people of Germany, Italy, and Japan, pleading especially that the cause of His Son's kingdom may be advanced among them, that they may learn to know and cherish the memory of Jesus, weeping for the men who would soon condemn Him to the cross. Is not this the Redeemer whom with all our resources and energies we must bring to the ends of the earth, also through the challenging, penetrating means of the radio?

Our only hope is in Him. Human methods to save the world from itself are doomed to defeat, if they banish Christ Some time ago Count Alfred D. Pierre Court left $2,000,000 to his native city, Rouen, France, for the express purpose of propagating giants. He wanted to raise a physically superior race that could lift humanity out of its woes. The trustees of his fund searched all over the world to secure men and women of large stature and unusual strength. The effort failed. The only people who can ever help mankind are the spiritual giants, the reborn children of God, whose love mirrors the devotion of that weeping Savior. Therefore listen closely as the Lenten invitation resounds, "Behold, we go up -to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn Him to death and shall deliver Him to the Gentiles, to mock and to scourge and to crucify Him; and the third day He shall rise again'! That Lenten call comes in a crisis such as this nation has never seen, and in a personal appeal to everyone of you, telling you now that for your soul it is either Christ or chaos, either heaven or hell, either life everlasting or death never-ending. As you see the tears of sorrow and sympathy stream down the Savior's face for you, will you, can you, dare you turn away from the only Redeemer you can ever have and say, "These tears mean nothing to me\*? God forbid! May you rather feel the tears of deep repentance and joyful faith well into your eyes as you, a weeping sinner, come to the weeping Redeemer for pardon, purity, and peace! The holy angels will swell the anthems of heavenly praise if now in your innermost heart you accept  God's Son. Rededicate yourself to Him! The Savior's tears for you will give way to gladness.

Wrong Judgment brings God’s Judgment

Commit the Keeping of your soul to Him, even through Suffering

Ps 91:4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. 8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

1Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

1. God’s Judgment on the church
   1. The time is come
      1. That judgment must begin at the house of God
         1. If If if if if
            1. If it first begin at us

What shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

* + - * 1. And if the righteous scarcely be saved

Where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

* + 1. Judgment comes with wisdom, mercy and faithfulness
    2. Suffering comes with preaching and teaching the Gospel no matter what.
       1. The Judgment of God is part of the Gospel
       2. Suffer according to the will of God
    3. False Prophets, false teachers, false doctrines and false accusations are God’s judgment on the Church WE MUST OVERCOME through suffering .

2Th 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

1Ti 4:1 ¶ Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

Isa 66:4 I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not.